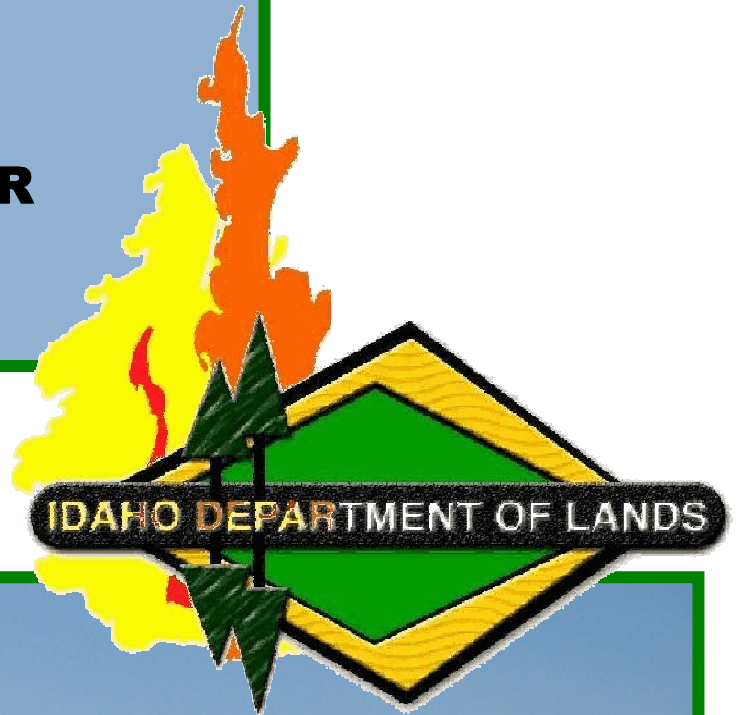


**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS**  
**YEAR END**  
**FIRE REPORT**  
**CALENDAR YEAR**  
**2005**



**Blackerby Fire from Grangeville-Maggie Cr. FPD**



# **IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS**

## **YEAR END FIRE REPORT**

### **FOR CY 2005**

#### **SEASON IN REVIEW**

Even under the effects of a multiple-year drought, the 2005 fire season was below average in terms of fire occurrence. On lands for which the Idaho Department of Lands, Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association, and Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association provide wildland fire protection, fire fighters responded to 228 fires (55 percent of average). These fires burned 10,868 acres, which is 117 percent of average.

Quick response by dedicated teams of firefighters kept 91 percent of these fires below 10 acres.

Human activity ignited 151 fires (66 percent) and accounted for 56 percent of the burned area or 6,078 acres. Debris burning started the most person-caused fires, but arson burned the most area. Arson was also the most expensive human-caused category.

Lightning started 77 fires (34 percent of the year's total) and burned 4,790 acres, or 44 percent of the total area.

The average fire size was 48 acres, which is 194 percent of average, the second highest in 21 years. The median fire size was 0.25 acres. That is the first time it exceeded 0.1 acres in 21 years.

## **FIRE WEATHER**

Winter ended with a snow pack of only 45 percent in most of the IDL's Protection Area. Warmer than usual temperatures melted what snow fell in the lower elevations. The warm, dry weather continued into early spring, but May rains were 200-300 percent of normal. This was not enough to replace the winter's deficit, but allowed good grass growth.

July and August were warmer and dryer than normal. Boise received no appreciable rainfall in these two months, and July was 5 degrees warmer than average. The average relative humidity was lower than usual.

A persistent high pressure system blocked monsoonal moisture, so the lightning fire occurrence was at a 21-year record low.



Long Ruggles Fire-Craig Mountain FPD

## **MULTIPLE FIRES**

The 2005 fire season saw 29 instances of more than one fire per day on a Forest Protective District. The Southwest FPD had six fires reported in one day. One four-day period had 47 ignitions in the State's Protection Area. A total of 77 (34%) fires occurred on multiple fire days.

## **LARGE FIRES**

2005 saw four fires exceed 100 acres. Two of these were on the Craig Mountain District and one each on Maggie Creek and Kootenai Valley FPD's.

Table 1 illustrates the season's ten largest fires:

**TABLE 1**

### **TEN LARGEST FIRES IN 2005**

Fire Name	District Name	Size	Total Cost
Blackerby	Maggie Creek FPD	4,974	\$5,400,000
Long Ruggles Complex	Craig Mountain FPD	4,731	\$3,258,900
Harpers Bend	Craig Mountain FPD	310	\$640,019
District 2	Kootenai Valley FPD	108	\$250,674
Fort Misery	Maggie Creek FPD	95	\$982
Spottenhagen	Craig Mountain FPD	58	\$28,857
Fix Ridge	Ponderosa FPD	53	\$386
Barn It	Craig Mountain FPD	46	\$125
Flying Bee 9	Maggie Creek FPD	45	\$16,767
Copenhagen Ridge	Craig Mountain FPD	36	\$18,017
Total		10,456	\$9,614,727



## TEAM USE



Justin Muhlhauser on Hurricane Relief Assignment

The Idaho Department of Lands supported Interagency Incident Management Teams with 24 employees serving as team members. In the Northern Rockies, IDL personnel held two positions on a Type 1 team and 17 positions on Type 2 teams. Great Basin participation consisted of four slots

on a Type 2 team and one on a Type 1 team. State personnel also contributed by accepting 167 off unit assignments in a variety of positions. Additionally, 20 positions were filled in the Hurricane Relief efforts.

Five IDL fires required Incident Management Teams (IMT). On these five fires, 90 structures were threatened but none were lost. Three of the IMTs ordered were Type 3 teams; two of these were on the Kootenai Valley FPD and one on the Craig Mountain FPD.

Type 2 teams were used on the Maggie Creek and Craig Mountain FPDs.

## **FIRE COSTS**

The fire reports estimate 2005's suppression costs for IDL fires at \$10,801,375, with the ten most expensive fires of the year shown in Table 2. These fires represent only four percent of the fires, 94 percent of the acreage, and 94 percent of the cost.

**Table 2**

### **Ten Most Expensive Fires**

Fire Name	District	Cost	Size
Blackerby*	Maggie Creek FPD	\$5,400,000	4,974
Long Ruggles Complex	Craig Mountain FPD	\$3,258,900	4,731
Harpers Bend	Craig Mountain FPD	\$640,019	310
District 2	Kootenai Valley FPD	\$250,674	108
Lodgepole Creek	SITPA	\$226,890	12
Deep Creek	Kootenai Valley FPD	\$159,394	25
Flat Creek	SITPA	\$87,736	10
Sleeping Beauty	Kootenai Valley FPD	\$60,078	3
Gunning	Mica FPD	\$44,321	3
Bugle	Priest Lake FPD	\$37,205	0.5
Total		\$10,165,217	10,177

\*IDL's portion of the cost was 71%

Tables 3 and 4 illustrate children caused fires blackened the least area but had the highest suppression cost per acre. Debris burning fires had the lowest cost per acre. Arson fires had the highest total suppression costs.

Our average cost per fire was \$47,374, and cost per acre was \$994. Human-caused fires cost \$7,004,967 (65% of the total). Of this amount, \$880,992 (8 percent) has been billed, and we have collected \$16,453 (2 percent) of what has been billed. Since the fire reports were completed, these amounts have increased.

Costs to the Endowments, in resource damage, are estimated at \$6,153. These losses were incurred on the Priest Lake, Kootenai Valley, CPTPA, and Craig Mountain FPD's.

**Table 3**

**Number of Fires by Cause, with Costs**

General Cause	# of Fires	% of Fires	Cost	% of Cost	Cost / Fire
Lightning	77	33.8	\$3,796,408	35.15	\$49,304
Debris Burning	55	24.1	\$139,475	1.30	\$2,536
Miscellaneous	37	16.2	\$818,725	7.58	\$22,128
Campfire	22	9.6	\$137,325	1.27	\$6,242
Equipment Use	18	7.9	\$70,725	0.65	\$3,929
Arson	14	6.1	\$5,424,826	50.22	\$387,488
Railroad	2	0.9	\$410,068	3.80	\$205,034
Smoking	2	0.9	\$741	0.01	\$371
Children	1	0.4	\$3,083	0.03	\$3,083
Total	228		\$10,801,375		\$47,374

**Table 4**

**Acres Burned by Cause, with Costs**

General Cause	Acres Burned	% of Acreage	Cost	Cost / Acre	Amount Billed	Amount Collected
Arson	5,007	46	\$5,424,826	\$1,083	0	0
Lightning	4,790	44	\$3,796,408	\$793	0	0
Miscellaneous	453	4	\$818,725	\$1,807	\$682,203	\$5,259
Debris Burning	387	4	\$139,475	\$360	\$128,490	\$10,398
Railroad	133	1.2	\$410,068	\$3,083	0	0
Equipment Use	84	0.8	\$70,725	\$3,083	\$45,092	\$797
Campfire	14	0.1	\$137,325	\$9,809	\$25,206	0
Smoking	0.2	0.0	\$741	\$3,705	0	0
Children	0.1	0.0	\$3,083	\$30,830	0	0
Total	10,868		\$10,801,375	\$994	\$880,992	\$16,453





Blackerby Fire-Maggie Creek FPD

### **AIRCRAFT USE**

The 2005 fire season began with the announcement from the Departments of Agriculture and Interior that the federally contracted large airtanker fleet would be operational but reduced from historic numbers. The reduction was in response to questions of airworthiness and the operational service life of some of the aging aircraft.

IDL was authorized to augment the traditionally contracted aircraft fleet with additional resources to again help mitigate the loss of the heavy airtankers. Five additional single engine airtankers were added for additional initial attack support. The success of the program was due in large part to a strong interagency commitment with IDL from the Idaho Panhandle, Clearwater/Nez Perce, and Payette National Forests who hosted the aircraft at their tanker bases. The National Forests provided the tanker base facilities including retardant, daily work direction for the aircrews, and aircraft dispatch as needed. The Craig Mountain FPD and the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association were key players in keeping the bureau apprised of daily aircraft availability at Grangeville and McCall. IDL paid for the aircraft daily availability, and the incident user paid for flight time.

Due to the lack of available qualified pilots and aircraft in the United States, IDL was able to again utilize three Air Tractor 802F single engine airtankers from the Province of New Brunswick. The process to pre-position Canadian aircrews and aircraft in the US was approved and cleared through the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. These aircraft flew fire suppression support on interagency incidents in Montana as well as north Idaho.

The other four Air Tractor 802 single engine airtankers were provided by Evergreen Flying Service from Louisiana and were based in Grangeville and McCall.

Helicopter resources were based in Coeur d'Alene and Craigmont. One light helicopter in Coeur d'Alene provided by River City Helicopters was supported by a nine person IDL helitac crew. This is the primary interagency initial attack air resource base at the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Fire Center. The crew was able to complete initial attack missions and support one Type 2 incident while operating from Bonners Ferry to Craigmont. The Clearwater FPDs were



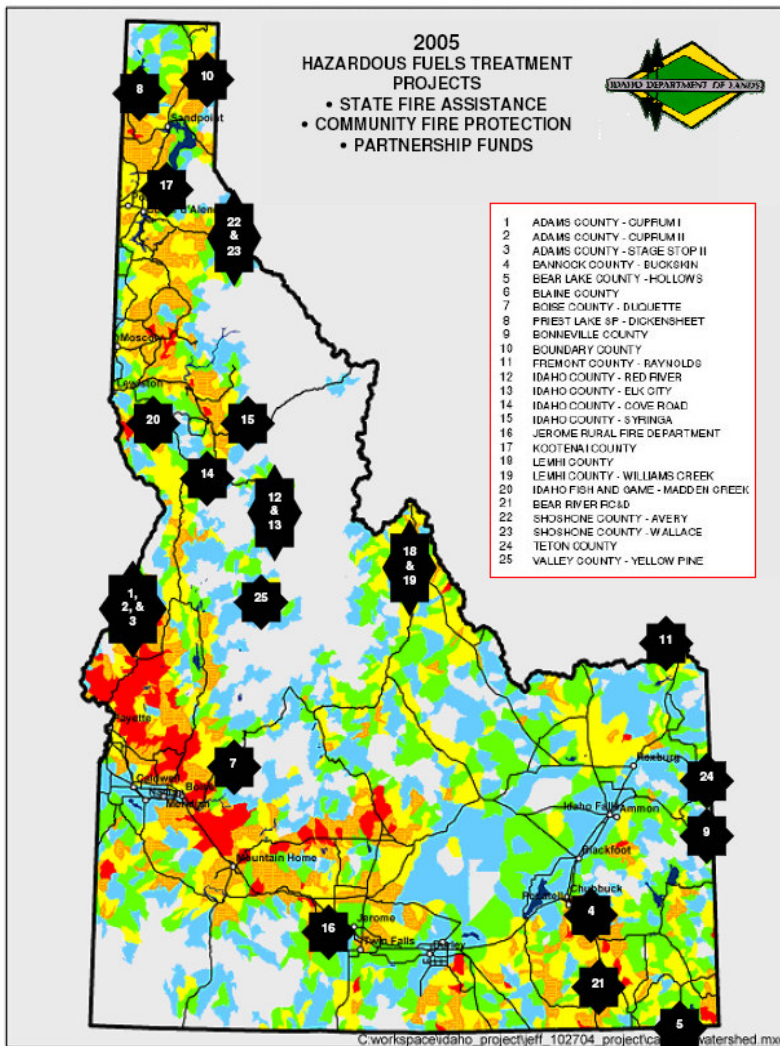
supported with a light helicopter from Hillcrest Aviation in Lewiston. This aircraft was managed from the Craig Mountain FPD and supported initial attack incidents, one Type 3 and one Type 2 incident.

As in the previous year, a combination of these aircraft and those federal air resources that did become available have been attributed to helping keep most IDL incidents at the initial attack or Type 3 incident classification. The potential savings from more incidents reaching the Type 2 classification is solid justification for the additional resources.



Coeur d'Alene Helitac

## NATIONAL FIRE PLAN



The implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho is progressing under the guidance of the 14-member Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG). More than 80 hazardous fuels treatment and education grants have been awarded in Idaho since 2001, with 31 completed. In 2005 alone, \$1,134,016 was awarded to Hazardous Fuels Treatment (HFT) projects around the State in cooperation

with the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry branch, and the Bureau of Land Management through the State Fire Assistance, Community Fire Protection, and Partnership Fund Grant Programs. To date, 7,210.26 acres have been treated and 6,968 structures have been protected. Average costs statewide were \$853.27 per acre and \$586.48 per structure. This brings the total of Idaho Department of Lands HFT grant awards since 2001 to \$10,095,558.

Of the 44 counties in Idaho, 41 have completed and signed their County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans, and the remaining 3 anticipate completion no later than



Spring 2006. Many of these completed plans have had an annual review and update, including the mapping of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) at the county level. For more information on this and other collaborative programs and collective efforts of all members of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group implemented under the National Fire Plan in Idaho, please visit either of the following sites: [www2.state.id.us/lands/](http://www2.state.id.us/lands/) or [www.idahofireplan.org](http://www.idahofireplan.org).

### **SHOSHONE COUNTY FIRE MITIGATION FIELD CREW**



### **VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA)**

The VFA Program provides federal financial assistance to organize, train, and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities. The VFA Program facilitates distribution of available funding to those fire departments determined to be most in need. Over 75% of the Nation's fire departments are volunteer (more than 200 in Idaho). Volunteer fire departments provide nearly 80% of initial attack on wildland fires in the United States. The Forest Service established the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program to help these crucial volunteers through their State Foresters (Idaho Department of Lands. Due to the changing communications needs throughout Idaho, an emphasis was placed on funding

those departments whose partners were moving to the P25 compliant communication systems in the immediate future so as to improve their ability to communicate with each other effectively. This year IDL received 65 grant applications with a total request of \$724,009.38; of these, **46** rural volunteer fire departments received VFA awards totaling **\$307,707.88** (the amount of funds available for distribution this year). For more information on this and other grant programs in Idaho, please visit:

[http://www2.state.id.us/lands/nat\\_fire\\_plan/grant\\_family\\_2003/grant\\_families.htm](http://www2.state.id.us/lands/nat_fire_plan/grant_family_2003/grant_families.htm)

### **FEDERAL EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY (FEPP)**

The FEPP program enables the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to acquire federal vehicles and equipment for fire protection use by IDL Forest Protective Districts, Timber Protective Associations, and local city, county, and rural fire districts/departments.

The US Forest Service administers the program nationally, and the Idaho Department of Lands administers the program within the state of Idaho. The privilege to acquire and use FEPP vehicles and equipment is a significant benefit to the citizens of the State of Idaho.

The Idaho Department of Lands Vehicle Maintenance Shop in Coeur d'Alene plays a major role in the FEPP program. When vehicles and equipment are acquired, they are then refurbished by the shop into usable fire fighting apparatus. The shop inspects, repairs, and paints the vehicles before use at an IDL district or loaning to a rural fire district.

The cost to acquire and refurbish represents a significant savings compared to the cost of purchasing new vehicles or equipment. In calendar year 2005, IDL

acquired 33 vehicles and pieces of equipment through the FEPP program with an original acquisition value of \$669,751. The IDL Vehicle Maintenance Shop refurbished 10 vehicles and 5 pieces of equipment, with an original acquisition value of \$631,302, and placed these into service at an IDL district or a rural fire district.

Idaho currently has 580 vehicles and pieces of equipment acquired through the FEPP program that are distributed between 13 IDL offices, two Timber Protective Associations, and 116 city, county or rural districts or departments. Total original acquisition value of all FEPP in the state is \$12,809,958.





## **WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION**

Activities ranged from annual participation in community events to assisting with Prevention/Education Teams. Prevention was conducted via face-to-face contact at community events, education through the distribution of publications and materials, and fire season updates via the media.

Prevention/Education Teams were ordered by the BLM in Boise for July and August, and those teams received a great deal of assistance and guidance from the IDL Southwest office. The Teams produced a number of quality prevention materials and made significant contact with the public through the media and community events.

There was interagency cooperation at the district, state, and regional level. Statewide, partnerships with prevention personnel at the USFS and BLM continued to play a key role in funding and accomplishing prevention activities. At the regional level, IDL assisted with the Northern Rockies Fire Prevention Workshop that was held in Bozeman, Montana. IDL was also a presence on the Prevention Committees for the Northern Rockies and Great Basin Coordinating Groups.

The Keep Idaho Green program revived its annual statewide poster contest for children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. A Firewise community in Pocatello was recognized for their efforts in home hazard mitigation. Another community in Worley will be seeking recognition for next year. A Fire Danger sign was provided to a Firewise community near Boise.

Some of the activities that IDL offices participated in:

- Annual events including parades, fairs, rodeos and school programs
- Prevention & fire season sign maintenance
- Burn permit administration

- Smokey Bear and Keep Idaho Green Poster contests
- Press releases and radio, newspaper and TV advertising
- Logging and residential inspections & assessments
- Hunter safety in the form of fire prevention education & distribution of campfire safety license holders
- Fire prevention patrols
- County fire prevention cooperatives

## **FIRE CACHE**

The role of the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Fire Cache is to provide logistical support to requesting State, Federal, and cooperating agencies. Although the cache is primarily oriented toward supporting wildland fire suppression activities, the fire cache also provides assistance for Homeland Security, declared State and Federal emergencies, and other natural disasters, as well as large projects such as prescribed burns. Fire Cache support is provided to a four state region as well as those requesting agencies encompassed within the Northwest Compact.

Statistically, based on value of supplies moved, the 2005 fire season was, for the Coeur d'Alene Cache, an "active" season.

Value of materials issued:

• Total Issue Values	\$2,759,724
• Total Return Values	\$1,438,175
• In-Region Issues	\$2,755,007
• Out of Region Issues	\$4,716
• Orders Processed	662
• Line Items Issued	3,576

During the 2005 season, supplies were processed through the Coeur d'Alene Cache for: **IDAHO, WASHINGTON, ALASKA, OREGON, & MONTANA**

The total Fire Cache transaction value for 2005 including Returns:

- **\$4,197,900.06**

2005 Orders by Agency:

<b><u>IDL</u></b>	<b><u>USFS</u></b>	<b><u>BLM</u></b>	<b><u>BIA/ Tribes</u></b>	<b><u>Associations</u></b>	<b><u>Other</u></b>
468	135	28	15	6	10

Current Cache Inventory Value

- \$3,311,500

Coeur d'Alene Cache employees accepted 13 assignments to other National Caches and to the field for a total of 182 man days. This includes 9 hurricane relief assignments.

## NUMBER OF FIRES IN EACH SIZE CLASS, BY DISTRICT

District	Total Fires	A	B	C	D	E	F
Cataldo FPD	3	3					
CPTPA	19	14	4	1			
Craig Mountain FPD	22	7	8	5		1	1
Kootenai Valley FPD	22	13	7	1	1		
Maggie Creek FPD	20	5	9	5			1
Mica FPD	38	14	22	2			
Pend Oreille FPD	17	14	3				
Ponderosa FPD	8	1	4	3			
Priest Lake FPD	15	12	3				
SITPA	42	33	8	1			
Southwest Idaho FPD	14	9	5				
West St. Joe FPD	8	2	6				
Total	228	127	79	18	1	1	2

## CAUSES BY DISTRICT

District Name	# of Fires	Lightning	Debris Burning	Misc.	Camp Fire	Equip Use	Arson	Rail Road	Smoking	Children
SITPA	42	18	3	5	10	3			2	1
Mica FPD	38	4	14	10	4	5	1			
Craig Mountain FPD	22	4	7	4	1	2	4			
Kootenai Valley FPD	22	7	7	4			2	2		
Maggie Creek FPD	20	6	6	4			4			
CPTPA	19	8	3	4	3		1			
Pend Oreille FPD	17	7	8		1	1				
Priest Lake FPD	15	12	1	2						
Southwest Idaho FPD	14	9			3	1	1			
Ponderosa FPD	8		2	1		4	1			
West St. Joe FPD	8	2	3	2		1				
Cataldo FPD	3		1	1		1				
Total	228	77	55	37	22	18	14	2	2	1

## DISTRICT ACRES BY CAUSE

District Name	# of Acres	Arson	Lightning	Misc.	Debris Burning	Rail Road	Equip Use	Camp Fire	Smoking	Children
Craig Mountain FPD	5,231	26	4,731	314	159		1	0.1		
Maggie Creek FPD	5,193	4,975	27	46	145					
Kootenai Valley FPD	143	1	4	2	4	133				
Ponderosa FPD	110	0.1		30	8		72			
Mica FPD	83	3	2	17	53		8	2		
CPTPA	49	2	1	36	10			0.3		
SITPA	32		17	1	2		1	10	0.2	0.1
West St. Joe FPD	14		1	8	3		2			
Pend Oreille FPD	5		1		4		0.1	1		
Southwest Idaho FPD	5	0.1	3				0.1	2		
Priest Lake FPD	3		3	0.01	0.2					
Cataldo FPD	0.3			0.1	0.1		0.1			
Total	10,868	5,007	4,790	453	387	133	84	14	0.2	0.1

## SUPPRESSION COST PER ACRE

District Name	# of Acres	Suppression Cost	District Cost / Acre
Priest Lake FPD	3	\$82,424	\$28,218
SITPA	32	\$418,746	\$13,231
Southwest Idaho FPD	5	\$43,278	\$8,905
Pend Oreille FPD	5	\$36,219	\$7,244
Cataldo FPD	0.3	\$2,034	\$6,780
West St. Joe FPD	14	\$69,588	\$5,061
Kootenai Valley FPD	143	\$492,674	\$3,434
CPTPA	49	\$94,012	\$1,913
Mica FPD	83	\$106,386	\$1,279
Maggie Creek FPD	5,193	\$5,456,284	\$1,051
Craig Mountain FPD	5,231	\$3,972,029	\$759
Ponderosa FPD	110	\$27,700	\$252
Total	10,868	\$10,801,375	\$994

## MULTIPULE FIRES PER DAY, BY DISTRICT

District	Total # Multi Fires	# of Days with Multi Fires	Most Fires in 1 day
SITPA	17	6	5
Mica FPD	11	5	3
Craig Mountain FPD	8	3	4
CPTPA	8	3	3
South West FPD	8	2	6
Kootenai Valley FPD	7	3	3
Priest Lake FPD	7	2	4
Maggie Creek FPD	5	2	3
Pend Oreille FPD	4	2	2
St. Joe FPD	2	1	2
Cataldo FPD	0	0	0
Ponderosa FPD	0	0	0
Total	77	29	

## SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT USE, BY DISTRICT

District	# of Times Air Tankers Were Used	# of Times Helicopters Were Used
Craig Mountain FPD	22	27
Maggie Creek FPD	13	16
SITPA	12	16
Kootenai Valley FPD	10	4
Mica FPD	3	3
Pond Oreille FPD	3	1
St. Joe FPD	3	0
CPTPA	3	8
Priest Lake FPD	0	10
Cataldo FPD	0	0
Ponderosa FPD	0	2
South West FPD	0	5
Total	69	92

The above matrix illustrates the number of aircraft used on fires in the FPD. It does not reflect the amount of use per fire.